

6 February 1990
OCA 0366-90

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Central America for Lee H. Hamilton,
HFAC Member

1. On 6 February 1990, between 1500 and 1545 hours, in Room 2187 Rayburn House Office Building, HFAC Member Lee H. Hamilton (D/IN) received a briefing on Central America. The briefing was at the secret level.

2. [REDACTED] Chief, ALA (Middle America/Cuba), supported by [REDACTED] also of ALA, focused their remarks on Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, and briefly covered Costa Rica. [REDACTED], OCA, was also present.

3. Mr. Hamilton exhibited a solid background knowledge of the dynamics of the political, military and economic situation of these countries and frequently interrupted the briefers with specific questions. He appeared to be particularly interested in the status of upcoming elections in each country--background and political leanings of the candidates, plans for election observers, probable winners, etc.

[REDACTED] The discussion on El Salvador covered the Jesuit priests' murder and prompted Mr. Hamilton to ask about the judicial system in that country.

4. The briefers were hard pressed to keep up with Mr. Hamilton's questions but they did so admirably. His questions were rapid and wide ranging in nature and both analysts were able to respond quickly and thoroughly. As a result, there were no outstanding issues to be followed up.

5. Mr. Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the briefing and noted that he would be requesting similar sessions in the future on a variety of issues. As OCA is aware, Mike Van Dusen had requested a weekly (intelligence) briefing for Mr. Hamilton which was turned down. While we may not hear from

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him on a weekly basis, we probably can anticipate fairly regular requests for updates. If he is as knowledgeable on other issues as he appeared to be at this session, the sessions will be substantive and fast moving and briefers should be prepared to deviate from prepared/written texts to answer his questions.

[REDACTED]

House Liaison
Office of Congressional Affairs

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[REDACTED]